

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
BUCKINGHAM.

1904.



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TO THE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
BUCKINGHAM.

STEEPLE CLAYDON,

February 15th, 1905.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting you with my Seventh Annual Report, as your Medical Officer of Health, for the year ending December 31st, 1904. In doing this, I beg to thank you for your kindness to me, and for the readiness you have always shewn in carrying out my recommendations.

*Number of
Meetings
attended.*

During the year I have attended 24 Council and 12 Committee Meetings.

*Area of
District.*

The Rural District of Buckingham consists of 33 parishes, comprising an area of 54,696 acres (85 square miles), exclusive of the area covered by water, which amounts to 197 acres.

Rainfall.

The rainfall for the year has amounted to 22·36, which is slightly less than the average of the last 10 years. The number of wet days was 164. The rainfall for 1903 was 34·94 inches and the number of wet days was 185. The wettest month was February and the driest June.

Population.

At the Census of 1901 the District contained a population of 8,124, being a decrease of 830 since the Census of 1891. There were at that time 2007 inhabited houses having an average number of 4·047 persons per house. I have estimated the population as being 7,940 to the middle of 1904.

Birth-rate.

The number of births registered during the year was 187 (boys 86, girls 98), being equal to an annual birthrate of 23·5 per 1000 living, compared with 23·1 for 1903. The rate for Rural England and Wales for 1904 was 26·8.

Death-rate.

The number of deaths registered during the year was 100, being equal to an annual death-rate of 12·6 per 1,000 living. Five deaths of residents were registered as having occurred in Public Institutions outside the District, so that the corrected death-rate is 13·2 per 1000 living, compared with 14·4 for the year 1903. The rate for Rural England and Wales for 1904 was 15·3.

Infantile Mortality.

The infantile mortality, or number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1000 births registered, was 43, compared with 65 for 1903, and with 125 for Rural England and Wales for 1904. This is a low rate, and it is satisfactory to note that since the year 1899 it has been under 100.

Phthisis Death-rate.

Five deaths have been registered as due to Phthisis (consumption) during 1904, and the Phthisis death-rate would therefore be 0·63 per 1000, compared with 0·75 for 1903, and with 1·23 for England and Wales.

Zymotic Death-rate.

The Zymotic death-rate is 1·13, compared with 1·125 for 1903, and 1·28 for Rural England and Wales (1904). The Zymotic death-rate is a term applied to the mortality from the “seven *principal* Zymotic diseases,” viz. : Small-pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Fever (typhus, simple continued, and enteric), and Diarrhœa. The deaths arising from Zymotic diseases were caused by—Scarlet Fever 1, Whooping Cough 6, and Diphtheria 2.

Scarlet Fever.

Forty-four cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the past year, with one death, compared with a total of 49 cases and one death during 1903. The cases occurred in the following villages : Beachampton 1, Charndon 7, Dadford 7, Edgcott 9, Leckhampstead 4, Lillingstone Dayrell 1, Lillingstone Lovell 3, Steeple Claydon 11, and Twyford 1. The hospital tents were used for the outbreak at Edgcott. The type of the disease is still of a mild character.

Diphtheria.

Fourteen cases of Diphtheria were notified, and there was one death. During the preceding year (1903) there were four cases and two deaths. The increase in the number of cases last year seems to bear out what I stated in my last report, that Diphtheria seems to be more prevalent during seasons with a diminished rainfall.

*Enteric
(Typhoid)
Fever.*

One case of this disease was notified during the past year, and there is a certain amount of doubt as to this fever being present in the District; at any rate, it has not been caused by the water, as the supply in Padbury is a public one, and if that were the "*fons et origo malè*" there would certainly have been more cases. This case did not end fatally.

Measles.

This disease is not notifiable in the District, and there were no deaths during 1904.

*Whooping
Cough.*

Six deaths occurred from this disease. Four of these were in Steeple Claydon and two in Charndon in the months of January and February.

Erysipelas.

Seven cases of Erysipelas were notified without a death.

*Membranous
Croup.*

One case of this disease was notified, and it ended fatally.

Small-pox.

No cases notified.

Cancer.

Six cases of Cancer proved fatal during the year compared with seven during 1903.

Influenza.

Influenza has not been prevalent during the year 1904, and there have not been any deaths caused by it.

*Infectious
Diseases
Notifica-
tion Act.*

Sixty-nine cases have been notified under this Act during the last year, compared with 63 during the year 1903. Scarlet Fever has again been very prevalent, accounting for no less than 44 out of the 69 notifications. I give here the usual table of the Infectious Diseases notified in the District since the Act was adopted in 1890 :—

CASES NOTIFIED.

	Scarlet Fever.	Erysipelas.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid.	Membran- ous Group.	Typhus.	Small-pox	Puerperal Fever.	Total.
1890	... 0	6	1	2	0	1	0	0	10
1891	.. 23	3	2	2	1	1	0	0	32
1892	... 16	3	0	5	0	0	0	0	24
1893	... 28	6	6	3	0	0	12	0	55
1894	... 46	14	11	2	0	0	0	0	73
1895	.. 17	12	54	9	0	0	0	0	92
1896	... 4	17	16	4	1	0	0	0	42
1897	... 13	16	6	1	0	0	0	0	36
1898	.. 8	9	1	1	0	0	0	0	19
1899	... 5	8	16	1	0	0	0	0	30
1900	.. 24	6	21	2	0	0	0	1	54
1901	.. 18	6	3	1	0	0	0	0	28
1902	... 31	10	2	0	0	0	2	1	48
1903	.. 49	9	4	0	0	0	0	1	63
1904	... 44	7	14	1	1	0	0	2	69

*Water
Supplies.*

Water certificates for 24 houses were applied for and granted. These houses were situated as follows :—Barton Hartshorne 2, Chetwode 1, Charndon 12, Steeple Claydon 3, Chackmore 1, Marsh Gibbon 1, and Westbury 4.

I have visited and taken samples from 8 public supplies in the District, and have made extended analyses of them. I have submitted copies of these analyses to your Council, and have also tabulated the results, and they appear at the end of this report.

A new well has been sunk at Barton Hartshorne for the supply of two new cottages at Barton Grounds. The analysis having proved satisfactory, a water certificate has been granted for each of these cottages. A wash-out valve has been fitted to the water main at Charndon. The floating valve of the public supply reservoir being out of order has been repaired, and the reservoir cleaned out.

Boring has been in progress in Steeple Claydon for improving and increasing the present water supply, and a contract has been entered into for sinking a new well.

Two wells at Lillingstone Dayrell have been partly rebuilt with blue bricks set in cement.

*Water
Supplies
(continued).*

The branch pipe of public water supply has burst, and a new pipe has been laid down. Four new anti-freezing stand-pipes have replaced four older ones which were in bad repair.

The water reservoirs supplying the village of Twyford have been cleaned out. The main pipes of the public water supply have been flushed at regular intervals.

Plans and specifications for a new public water supply for Water Stratford have been prepared.

Sewerage.

At Adstock the sewer ditches have been cleaned out.

At Biddlesden the village sewer has been opened and cleaned.

At Beachampton the brook has been cleaned out.

At Charndon the sewer ditches have been cleaned out.

At Steeple Claydon the cesspool at North End has been cleaned out, also about 12 chain of the back brook. The 9-inch main sewer at West End has been repaired, and a new manhole constructed with channelled inlets to receive the drainage of 8 new cottages. The two sewerage tanks have been pumped out.

At Middle Claydon the sewer was opened and swept out with rods owing to its being blocked. The sewer ditch below the Cemetery has been cleaned out. As the large tank near Verney Junction was overflowing and its contents were discharging into the ditch, the Railway Company have had the tank and ditch cleaned out and a syphon outlet fitted to the tank.

At Dadford a new socket pipe sewer with cemented joints has been laid from the school to an inspection chamber, and from there across a small grass field to the brook.

At Edgcott a blocked sewer has been opened and swept clear with rods. Eighteen yards of 12-inch sewer has been taken up and relaid. A new manhole has been built near the "Fox" Inn.

At Hillesden a sewer ditch has been cleaned out. The drainage of the school and 4 adjacent cottages has been

*Sewerage
(continued).*

relaid, a new manhole built, also an intercepting chamber with fresh-air inlet, and a ventilating shaft.

At Leckhamstead the sewer ditches have been cleaned out. The old sewer has been taken up, and new socket pipes with cemented joints have been put down ; also an intercepting chamber with fresh-air inlet has been built, and a ventilating shaft.

At Maidsmoreton the sewage filter tank has been cleaned out and re-charged with coke on several occasions. The sewage ditches have been cleaned out three times.

At Marsh Gibbon several ditches have been cleaned out, also the cesspools. The sewer near Whale's Lane has been blocked ; it has been opened and swept. The sewage filter tanks have been cleaned out and re-charged with coke.

At Preston Bissett the sewer ditch has been cleaned out.

At Padbury the sewer was blocked ; it has been opened and swept. About 4 chain of local pipes have been replaced with 6-inch socket pipes. The sewer ditches have been cleaned out.

At Poundon the sewer ditch has been cleaned out.

At Gawcott Road and Bath Lane in the parish of Radclive a new sewer has been laid, and it is connected with the sewage system of the Borough of Buckingham.

At Thornborough the brook and large pond have been cleaned out, and some new 9-inch socket pipes have been put down to replace 4-inch local pipes.

At Turweston the old stone sewer has been blocked three times during the year ; on each occasion it was opened and swept clear.

At Twyford the sewer ditches have been cleaned out, also the settling tanks.

At Westbury 66 yards of new 6-inch socket pipe have been put down ; also some blocked drains have been cleared.

Closets,

Vault closets have been converted into dry-earth closets in 30 cases.

*Sewage
Treatment.*

The tanks and filters for the treatment of sewage at Edgcott and Marsh Gibbon have been working satisfactorily during last year.

*New
Buildings.*

The Vicarage and 3 new cottages have been built at Steeple Claydon, and are now occupied. Twelve new cottages have been built at Itter's Brick Works in the parish of Charndon. A new cottage has been built at Marsh Gibbon. A new house has been finished at Chackmore. Four cottages are in course of construction at Steeple Claydon, also a public-house at Charndon.

Bakehouses.

I have visited the bakehouses in the District, and with one exception have found them in good order.

*Isolation
Hospital.*

The Isolation Hospital Tents were erected at Dadford and Edgcott for outbreaks of Scarlet Fever, and at Maidsmoreton for Diphtheria.

Disinfection.

Sixty-six houses in the District have been supplied with disinfectants, and 39 houses have been disinfected.

I beg to thank Mr. Varney, your Sanitary Inspector, for his help and co-operation, and I append a detailed list of the work done by us during the past year.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

PHILIP L. BENSON, M.D., D.P.H. (CAMB.),
Medical Officer of Health.



Summary of Nuisances Abated during the Year 1904.

Number of Houses, Places, or Premises Inspected	..	438
Number of Notices on hand 31st December, 1903	...	1
Number of Notices served	... ..	4
Complied with	.. ... ..	5
Leaving on Books, 31st December, 1904	... ..	0
Letters written relative to Nuisances	... ..	680
Houses repaired	... ..	13
,, Lime-washed and Cleaned	... ..	15
,, Supplied with Disinfectants	... ..	66
,, Overcrowded	... ..	0
Closets improved or converted to dry earth ones	... ..	30
Vault Closets cleaned out	... ..	16
Ashpits repaired	... ..	0
New Houses built	... ..	19
,, Houses with additions	... ..	3
Drains laid to Houses	.. ... ..	20
,, Repaired	.. ... ..	58
,, Trapped	... ..	34
Ditches cleaned out	... ..	57
Sewage Filtering Tanks cleaned out	... ..	7
Sewers ventilated	... ..	0
Water Inlets into sewers trapped	... ..	8
Foul Pigwash removed	... ..	2
Manure and other Refuse removed	... ..	22
Public Wells cleansed	... ..	1
,, ,, sunk	... ..	0
Pumps fitted to Wells	... ..	0
,, repaired or altered	... ..	1
Wells repaired	... ..	4
Additional new Closets	... ..	2
Blocked Drains cleared	... ..	27
Houses disinfected	.. ... ..	39
Public Water Supplies repaired	... ..	6
New Private Wells	... ..	2
Public Water Supplies Analysed	... ..	8
Sewage Ponds cleaned out	... ..	10
Persons summoned before the Magistrates	... ..	0
Sewers Repaired	... ..	8
Sewers partly taken up and relaid	... ..	9
New extension of Sewers	... ..	1
Additional new Water Closets	.. ... ..	2
Pigstyes drained	... ..	3
Number of times Hospital Tents in use	... ..	3
Sewage Settling Tanks cleaned out	... ..	7
Houses granted Water Certificates	.. ... ..	24
Bake-houses inspected	... ..	14

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics for the Whole District during 1902 and Previous Years.

YEAR.	Population esti- mated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		TOTAL DEATHS AT ALL AGES.		TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institu- tions beyond District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES.	
		Num- ber.	Rate.	Num- ber.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.				Num- ber.	Rate.
1894	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
1895	...	...	...	27	...	157	...	...	...	...	...	...
1896	..	...	...	...	...	110	...	...	...	...	...	..
1897	...	...	...	...	..	126	...	...	...	...	...	...
1898	8466	*155	24.4	*12	77.4	*66	10.4	0	*4	*2	*64	10.1
1899	8405	187	22.2	27	144.4	122	14.5	0	2	9	129	15.3
1900	8358	214	25.6	18	84.1	129	15.4	3	7	5	127	15.2
1901	8110	187	23.05	18	96.25	109	13.4	2	2	6	113	13.9
1902	8050	172	21.4	16	93.02	98	12.2	0	0	9	107	13.3
1903	8000	185	23.1	12	64.86	107	13.4	1	1	9	115	14.4
Averages for years 1898-1903	8231	191.3	23.2	17.9	93.57	109.7	13.3	1.0	2.8	6.9	113.9	13.8
1904	7940	187	23.5	8	42.78	100	12.6	0	0	5	105	13.2

* 9 months.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of
area covered by water) ... 54,696

Total population at all ages ... 8124

Number of Inhabited Houses ... 2007

Average number of persons per house ... 4.047

At Census of
1901.

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.	Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.
Isolation Hospital for the Urban District of Buckingham.	Buckingham Union Workhouse. Bucks Infirmary, Aylesbury. Bucks County Asylum, Stone. Nursing Home, Buckingham.

The Union Workhouse is not within the District.

TABLE II.
Buckingham Rural District.

YEAR.	WHOLE DISTRICT.				REGISTRATION SUB-DISTRICT OF BUCKINGHAM (RURAL).				REGISTRATION SUB-DISTRICT OF TINGEWICK.				BIDDLESSEN, TURWESTON, AND WESTBURY (BRACKLEY UNION).			
	Population esti- mated to middle of each Year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year	Population esti- mated to middle of each Year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year	Population esti- mated to middle of each Year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year	Population esti- mated to middle of each Year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year
1898 (9 mos.)	8466	165	64	12	3217	58	24	5	4565	86	35	6	648	11	5	1
1899	8405	187	129	27	3196	81	44	9	4533	94	73	16	676	12	12	2
1900	8358	214	127	18	3176	66	48	5	4522	137	68	10	660	11	11	3
1901	8110	187	113	18	3048	66	39	11	4424	109	61	6	638	12	13	1
1902	8050	172	107	16	3018	63	40	7	4402	99	63	8	630	10	4	2
1903	8000	185	115	12	2995	58	52	3	4385	120	55	7	620	7	8	2
Averages of Years 1898 to 1903.	8231	191.3	113.9	17.9	3108	68.2	42.9	6.9	4472	112.2	61.7	9.2	651	11	9.2	1.9
1904	7940	187	105	8	2960	65	41	2	4375	117	62	6	605	5	2	0

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1904 in the Buckingham Rural District

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.			NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.		
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						1.	2.	3.	1.	2.	3.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.						
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ...	14	1	2	10	...	1	...	10	4	...	...	...	...
Membranous Croup ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	7	...	1	...	...	5	1	2	5	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	44	...	11	29	1	3	...	16	28	...	...	...	...
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Enteric Fever ...	1	..	..	...	...	1	...	...	1	..	...	...	...
Relapsing Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever ...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	...
Puerperal Fever ...	2	...	...	...	...	2	..	1	1	..	...	...	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Totals ...	69	1	14	40	1	12	1	29	40	...	...	..	...

TABLE IV.

Causes of and Ages at Death during year 1904 in the Rural District of Buckingham.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS AT SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT.							DEATHS AT ALL AGES OF "RESIDENTS" BELONGING TO LOCALITIES, WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND DISTRICT.			DEATHS OF RESIDENTS OR NON-RESIDENTS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN DISTRICT.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.				
Small-pox											
Measles											
Scarlet Fever ..	1					1			1		
Whooping Cough ...	6	2	4						6		
Diphtheria and membranous Croup ...	2			2				1	1		
Croup											
Fever { Typhus ...											
{ Enteric ...											
{ other continued											
Epidemic Influenza ...	1						1	1			
Cholera											
Plague											
Diarrhœa											
Enteritis ..											
Puerperal Fever ...	2					2		1	1		
Erysipelas ..											
Other Septic Diseases	1					1			1		
Phthisis	5				3	2		1	3	1	
Other Tubercular Diseases ...	1					1			1		
Cancer, malignant Disease ...	6					3	3	3	3		
Bronchitis	10	1	2			1	6	5	5		
Pneumonia	6					4	2	4	2		
Pleurisy	1					1			1		
Other diseases of Respiratory organs ...											
Alcoholism											
Cirrhosis of Liver } ...											
Venereal Diseases ...											
Premature Birth ..	2	2							2		
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	1				1				1		
Heart Diseases ...	18				1	9	8	8	9	1	
Accidents ..	2				1		1		2		
Suicides											
All other causes ...	40	3					27	17	23		
All causes ..	105	8	6	2	6	34	49	41	62	2	None

Analyses of Public Water Supplies in 1904.

SOURCE OF SAMPLE.	PHYSICAL CHARACTERS.	GRAINS PER GALLON.				NITRITES.	PARTS PER MILLION.		
		Chlorine.	Equivalent of Common Salt	Total Hardness.	Nitrogen as Nitrates.		Free Ammonia.	Albuminoid Ammonia.	Oxygen absorbed in 15 min. at 212° F.
Adstock Pump	Pale greenish; no turbidity	11.2	18.5	49	1.1	None	0.06	0.18	3.4
Akeley Pump	Colourless	1.2	2.0	28	0.1	"	0.02	0.05	0.75
" Tap	Faintly yellow	6.9	11.0	33	0.5	"	None	0.06	0.7
Maids Moreton; Pump, Duck Lake	Pale greenish, no turbidity	2.1	3.5	26	0.02	"	0.03	0.06	1.1
" Pump near Elms	"	5.1	8.4	30	0.74	"	0.01	0.07	1.75
" Pump near Mrs. Ridgway's	"	3.0	4.9	30	0.32	"	0.02	0.06	0.85
" Wellmore	"	5.2	8.6	40	0.5	"	0.03	0.07	1.75
Padbury, No. 6 Standpipe	Pale yellowish, slight turbidity	1.4	2.3	39	0.015	"	0.01	0.05	0.8

